Judge Rejects Sirhan's Bid To Revisit Scene of Crime

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 1—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was turned down today on his request to return to the Ambassador Hotel pantry where he shot down Robert F. Kennedy more than eight years ago.

Sirhan, who says he blacked out that night and does not remember shooting Kennedy, asked to be brought back to the hotel in hopes the visit would jog his memory.

But presiding Los Angeles County Superior Judge William Hogoboom said he had "absolutely no jurisdiction to return a convicted person to the scene of the crime."

"To do so would be to operate the court under the authority of old wives' tales," Hogoboom said in denying the petition filed by Sirhan's attorney, Godfrey Isaac.

"There is no scientific evidence I know of—psychologically, medically, astrologically or otherwise—to support the claim that this would revive his memory," the judge added.

Isaac said he will visit Sirhan in Soledad prison next week and tell him that it probably would be futile to appeal Hogoboom's decision.

"Sirhan had nothing really to gain by this," Isaac said, pointing out that the convicted assassin already has a 1984 parole date.